



2015 Iowa Rabies Summary

ANIMAL RABIES IN IOWA:

In 2015, 12 cases of animal rabies were reported in Iowa. Rabies was identified most frequently in wildlife species including 7 bats and 1 skunk. Three cases were diagnosed in dogs and one case was diagnosed in a cat.

Table 1: Positive Rabies Cases 2004-2014

Species	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Bat	60	28	13	11	11	10	12	17	6	10	7	185
Skunk	33	13	5	7	13	13	7	9	4	2	1	107
Cat	5	7	7	9	3	1	3	1	0	1	1	38
Cow	7	4	0	1	5	1	3	4	2	2	0	29
Dog	2	2	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	16
Horse	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Fox	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Squirrel	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Badger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	108	57	31	29	35	27	25	31	12	15	12	382

During 2015, 1389 animals in Iowa were tested for rabies and 12 were confirmed positive (0.87%). The percent positive varies greatly by species, see the Table 2 below. It is important to note that this data is greatly influenced by the number of animals tested. Many animals are tested because they have contact with humans or domestic animals and they exhibit unusual behavior or clinical signs making them more likely to be infected with the rabies virus. For these reasons, the percentages should not be considered representative of the true distribution of disease within the animal population in Iowa.

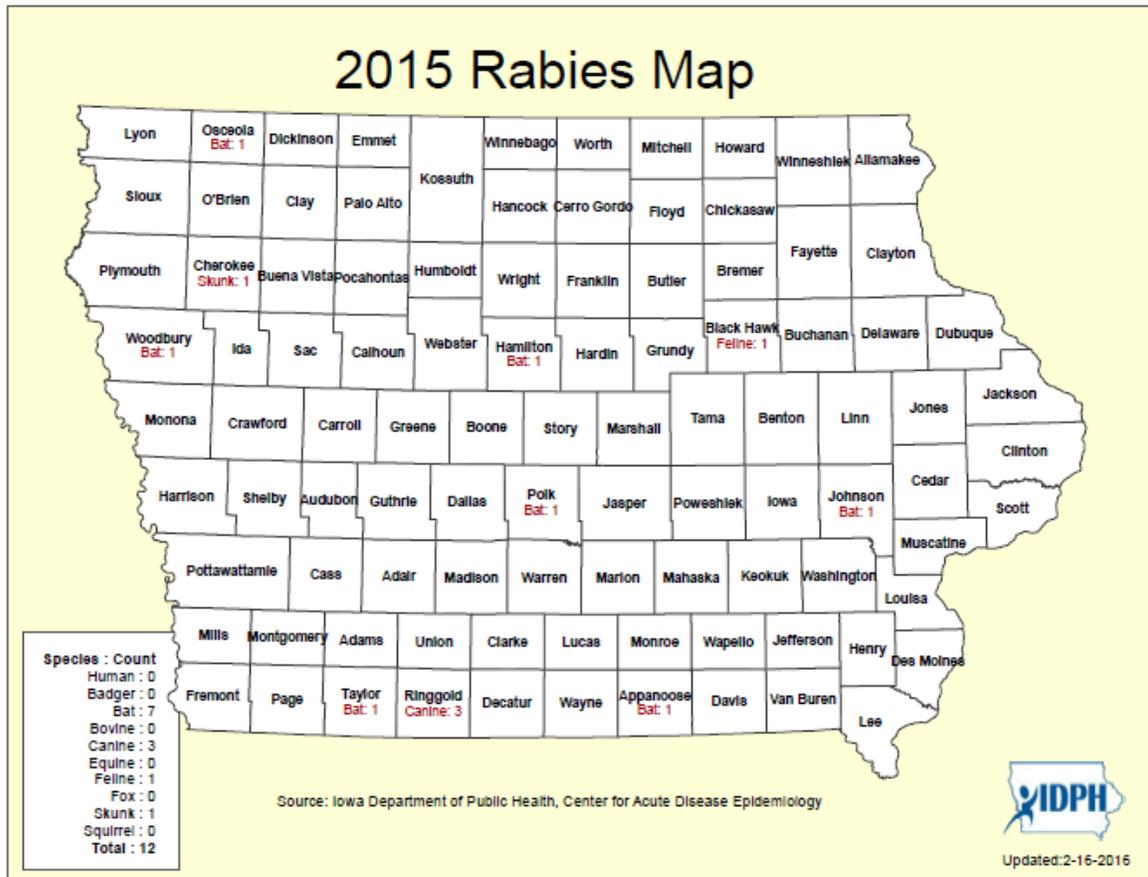
Table 2: Percent Positive by Species in 2015

Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
Skunk	1	15	6.67%
Bat	7	449	1.56%
Dog	3	310	0.97%
Cat	1	371	0.32%

In Iowa, the most common bat species submitted for testing are the Big Brown bat and Little Brown bat; however other bat species are occasionally tested.

Table 3: Bat Species Tested and Positive for Rabies Infection

Species	Positive	Total Tested
Eptesicus fuscus (Big Brown bat)	7	403
Myotis lucifugus (Little Brown Bat)	0	27
Lasiurus borealis (Eastern Red Bat)	0	4
Myotis sodalis (Indiana Bat)	0	4
Rousettus aegyptiacus	0	1
Unknown	0	10
Total	7	449



There are two laboratories that test animals for rabies in Iowa:

- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Iowa animals are also periodically tested in out-of-state laboratories

HUMAN RABIES IN IOWA:

Iowa's most recent human rabies case occurred in 2002, and was caused by the bat strain. Prior to that, the last reported case occurred in 1951.

While the exact number of people who receive rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) each year in the United States is unknown, it is estimated to be about 40,000 people. Based upon Iowa's population, that would equate to approximately 390 Iowan's receiving PEP each year.

Rabies information is accessible on the IDPH website, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp
 IDPH provides 24/7 rabies consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours